

As the ACP (Association of Continuity Planners) of Northern Illinois, we would like to thank the DHS for their efforts in leading the implementation of the **Voluntary Private Sector Accreditation and Certification Preparedness Program**, and for placing this document into the public domain for comment.

As a group of individuals who are business continuity professionals in various industry verticals, including telecommunications, aviation, financial, non-for-profit and consulting, we recommend consideration being extended to as many viable standard choices as possible. We loosely define the word standard to include recognized international and domestic standards, as well as those professional practices and industry guidelines which are directly related to Business Continuity and are already followed by many organizations. To this end we recommend that standards such as NFPA 1600 and BS 25999 be included as well as DRII's Ten Professional Practices, NIST's 800 series, ISO 24762 and industry specific standards such as, but not limited to, The FFIEC BCP IT Examination Handbook, and TIA 942.

We believe that in order for this plan to work, it needs to ultimately provide a framework that organizations will and can use to ensure that they are prepared to respond to and recover from adverse situations. That being said, beyond the inclusion of a broad base of standards, we believe that the standards named to this program should be free and accessible to the general public, be scalable for organizations of all sizes and allow for a 'fit-for-purpose' approach by an organization.

Finally, we also believe that the Voluntary Private Sector Accreditation and Certification Preparedness Program require that all standards that are included meet minimum requirements regarding, specific and measurable results, as well as the upkeep and maintenance of any program as developed by an organization.

We respectfully submit these comments for inclusion in the review of your 'target document' dated December 24, 2008.

Respectfully,

The Members of the Northern Illinois Chapter of the ACP as submitted by **Bruce Lundeen, MBCP**

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